



Maine Farmer.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

Forthcoming Events.

Central Maine Poultry Association—Exhibition at Augusta, Maine, December 19-21.

Western Maine Poultry Association—Exhibition at Bangor, Maine, December 19-21.

What we Buy, and What we Sell.

At present we are sending out of Maine a large amount of potatoes. Under the stimulus caused by a light crop in Maryland, Delaware and other states which usually supply the New York market, prices here have greatly advanced, and this demand from New York and Boston has caused a great advance in price to be made in all the local markets in our State, with an active demand for every bushel of potatoes the farmer has to sell. Fortunately, perhaps for our farmers, the potato crop this season was large, and most farmers have a good surplus to dispose of, for which we hope they will obtain a good price. We mean fortunately because, with all our people are purchasing from abroad, and with the dull times upon us, it is fortunate, perhaps, that they have anything to sell; but looking ahead a few years, and contemplating the exhausted potato fields upon which little will grow, we certainly think it very unfortunate that our farmers are raising potatoes to the great extent many of them are. In Aroostook county with its virgin soil, containing an abundance of unused potatoes, the farmers are harvesting from 250 to 300 bushels of potatoes per acre, and even more than this in some instances. And it is true that thirty years ago farmers in what is now called the older portions of the State, were harvesting these same crops where now they are obliged to be satisfied with from 60 to 125 bushels per acre. Now in a crop of 300 bushels of potatoes (which is recovered from the soil four hundred pounds of potash—a most costly and important ingredient, and one which animal excrements cannot replace—and one hundred and fifty pounds of phosphoric acid. Our fields cannot go on to yield good crops of potatoes unless we supply to them phosphoric potash in large quantities—something we fear our farmers are not particular to do. Yet they must do it, or soon their land will not yield remunerative or satisfactory crops of this or any other product.

But it is unfortunate for us, that we have little else to dispose of at a time when we are purchasing so much, and notwithstanding the general comfort and independence with which our farmers enter upon the winter, they are purchasing too much from abroad, for the payment of which it takes cash, and cash, too, earned at hard labor. This cash not only goes to purchase the article consumed, but it also goes to pay for transportation, and for two or three profits, which latter items amount to no inconsiderable sum in the course of a year. Better, far, to work for producing enough of what is wanted, than to work for supporting other men who are themselves non-producers.

Now look at it: What comes into Maine from other states which the farmers and others consume and live upon, that can only be purchased for cash, and yet which our farmers ought to grow and produce themselves? Throwing aside the manufactured goods of various kinds, we find that such articles as corn, barley, oats, shorts, butter, cheese, apples, cranberries, beef, pork, wool, and other articles too numerous to mention, to say nothing of coal and manure. Now are there any good reasons why Maine should not grow her own wheat, corn, barley and oats; make her own butter and cheese, her own beef and grow her own apples and cranberries? We truly believe there is not. Some years, it is true, we produce apples sufficient for our own use and to spare, but we are not doing this year; and as to butter and cheese, Vermont and New York have in the past found a splendid market for their dairy products in this State. Flour and corn come into Maine by the hundred cart loads, and of barley there is scarcely a sufficient amount grown for seed. We envisage it, it is true, by selling a great deal of hay, a good many potatoes, some cord wood and hoop poles, a few fast horses and a little wool, to pay for the flour, corn, and other articles, and cheese, and butter, and apples, and cranberries, and other articles, which we buy, by getting in debt some each year; but we submit it is not a creditable or a decent thing to do. Let us all, as farmers, stop doing so any more! Let us lay our plans the present winter for a different course of procedure in the future, and begin another spring by growing a good crop of wheat, and so lay out our work as to accomplish better and truer results. Every farmer in Maine who pretends to be a farmer, can raise the coming year twenty-five bushels of wheat, seventy-five of corn, thirty of barley and fifty of oats; fatten from three to six swine; produce his own butter, cheese and apples; fatten at least one animal for beef; and if he does not invest too much in patent rights and commercial fertilizers, will make money by farming. Try it and see.

Central Maine Poultry Exhibition.

A Last Appeal.

We trust the readers of the FARMER will not forget the exhibition of poultry to be given by the Central Maine Poultry Association next week at Fairfield. The managers are expecting poultry, pigeons, etc., from all parts of the State, and are anxiously engaged in making preparations for the same. There will be stock from all the leading breeders in Maine on exhibition, and several parties will exhibit pigeons in variety. The entire stock of the well known Tuxfordist, F. Sawtelle of West Waterbury, will be on exhibition, and there is also expected a fine collection of eggs, which will add to the attractions of the exhibition. All stock sent by Express Companies will be returned free. The Maine Central R. R. will sell tickets for two-thirds the regular rates. The Hotel connected with the Hall where the exhibition will be held, makes a reduction in its rates to all attending. Reliable parties have been selected to be at the depot on the arrival of all trains, and so that all poultry sent is properly protected, also to see to the arranging of stock in the hall, and to the care of them day and night. These are the officers doing their part. What they desire is that the public

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We would be glad to receive a few samples of Lost Nation wheat—what may be sent by mail for a few cents—and also the names of parties who have it to dispose of for seed. We have many inquiries from parties desiring it for sowing, and would be glad to take the trouble to inform them where they can obtain it, and the price per bushel.

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